

Madrid, June 11, 2025

The European Union honors the Spanish project 'Ulysses Data for Science' for its scientific work in ocean conservation

- The project involves the participation of the Basque Government and is led by AZTI, a renowned technology centre specialising in marine research.
- The award is part of the European Union's "Restore our ocean and waters" initiative, developed by the European Union in collaboration with the European Commission.
- The prize recognizes the pioneering work of "Ulysses Data for Science" in leveraging data intelligence to improve the management and protection of water resources.
- The award ceremony was attended by the European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, Costas Kadis, and the European Commissioner for Start-ups, Research and Innovation, Ekaterina Zaharieva.

The European Union (EU) has honored the Spanish project **"Ulysses Data for Science"** for its scientific efforts in preserving the oceans. During the **Annual forum of the "Restore our ocean and waters" Mission** — a joint initiative by the EU and the European Commission — **"Ulysses Data for Science"** was recognized for its **groundbreaking use of data intelligence** to enhance the management and safeguarding of water resources.

Held in Brussels, the event gathered over 1,800 participants, including **Commissioner Costas Kadis and Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva**, alongside other key figures from political, scientific, investment, and civil society sectors.

Press release

This initiative aims to play a central role in shaping the upcoming **European Ocean Pact** and the future **EU Ocean Research and Innovation Strategy**, as part of the broader goal to meet environmental and sustainability targets set for 2030. To support these objectives, European institutions annually present awards to innovative projects that make significant contributions to the restoration and preservation of marine and freshwater ecosystems. In this 2025 edition, the Spanish project **"Ulysses Data for Science"** stood out for its major contribution to **advancing the goals set by the international community**.

Progress and commitments

Thanks to a **€400 million** investment from Horizon Europe, the Mission has funded **67 projects** across **223 demonstration sites**, with initiatives ranging from oyster reef restoration to drone-based plastic waste mapping.

The Mission has also mobilized **16 Member States, over 30 regions, and 70 municipalities**, amassing more than **1,100 commitments** under the Mission Charter — reinforcing collective dedication to protecting oceans and waters.

Looking ahead

The Forum highlighted the urgent need to scale and replicate solutions across Europe, with a special focus on the Mission Lighthouses, which facilitate the expansion of innovative technologies at the river basin level.

In addition, the EU Blue Champions funding scheme was presented, developed in collaboration with the **European Investment Bank (EIB)**, along with the new **EIT Water initiative** — both aimed at strengthening investment and accelerating project implementation.

The event reaffirmed the international community's commitment to ensuring a resilient, productive, and healthy ocean, positioning the Mission as a key pillar in the transformation of Europe's blue economy

Sobre Ulysses

Web: <https://ulyssesproject.org/>

Correo: info@ulyssesproject.org



[@Ulysses Data for Science](#)

Press release

Para más información

Jorge Ballester

Director de Relaciones con los Medios y Comunicación Interna

jballester@elecnor.com

Tel: 914 179 900

Harmon

Manuel Bravo

Manager de comunicación corporativa

mbravo@harmon.es

Tel: +34 654 267 138